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Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord God, the Almighty and the all wise, how unreachable are Your judgments and Your ways past finding out. You are the source of all joy and the one who orders the morning. Let Your truth govern our words, dwell in our thoughts, purify our dealings, occupy and redeem our time.

Lord, bless our Senators with strength sufficient for today's challenges and illuminate their paths with Your light. May they walk in the way of integrity and sacrifice. Help them to give You their anxieties as they incline their hearts toward unity. Teach us all to cheerfully do Your will, so we may not fear the power of any adversaries. We pray this in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting Republican leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consider-

ation of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 40, the Federal marriage amendment. Discussions continue as to how best to proceed to the consideration of this constitutional amendment. While those negotiations continue, Senators are encouraged to come to the floor to speak on the amendment.

Friday, a number of Members came to the floor to talk on this issue, and we expect to resume the robust debate today. There will be no rollcall votes during today's session.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting Democratic leader is recognized.

VOTING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, through the Presiding Officer to the acting leader, as we announced on Friday, we, the minority, would be willing to move to the resolution without a vote on a motion to proceed. We are willing to do that and set a time whenever the leader desires on Wednesday to vote on the resolution. Of course, that is with the understanding there would be no amendments to the resolution. We think that would be a fair way to approach this very important issue. There would be whatever time the leader wants. If he wanted to vote on Thursday, that would be fine. Whatever time is deemed necessary to the majority leader, we would be willing to abide by that. It would avoid a lot of the extraneous issues. It allows us to proceed without any procedural impediments and move right to the resolution.

We want to make sure there is no misunderstanding, that it is very simple. We are willing to move at any time convenient to the majority to a vote on the resolution itself, of course, with no amendments.

FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 40, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 40, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 6 p.m. shall be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member or their designees.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, in response to the Senator from Nevada, I appreciate his offer. I suggest we continue to work together to see if we can come up with a plan on how to proceed. It would be optimal to have a vote, a substantive vote.

As the Senator from Nevada may not be aware, there are different opinions on how to best address this issue. There are a couple of other proposals that have been floated out there that Members on our side would like to vote on by way of amendment to the underlying legislation.

This is an important piece of legislation. It is a piece of legislation on first impression here to the Senate and, given the importance of this legislation, it begs a full debate and the opportunity for different points of view to be expressed through the amendment process. While I appreciate the chance for an up-or-down vote on the Allard text, I do know of many Members who have different ideas and would like to see those ideas be reflected by way of amendment.

At this point, we are not capable of agreeing to that but we would be anxious to work with the Senator to see if there is some construct we can put together to allow this issue to be fully debated for those who have different

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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